



**ELISE  
JOSEPH  
FOUNDATION**

P. O. Box 12595 • Philadelphia, PA 19151

**Contact: Gilda Jean-Louis**  
*Co-Founder and Executive Director*  
Cell: 267-808-4714  
[elisejosephfoundation@hotmail.com](mailto:elisejosephfoundation@hotmail.com)

*“Serving Haitian-Americans through Education, Cross Cultural and Health Promotion and Humanitarian Relief.”*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Third Annual Haitian-American Health Fair to Address Critical Health Care Needs of Haitian Immigrants in Philadelphia***

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – For its third consecutive year, The Elise Joseph Foundation of Philadelphia will convene its *Haitian-American Health Fair* targeting Haitian immigrants living in Philadelphia. **The event will take place on Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 11 AM – 5PM at the Lonnie Young Recreation Center, 1100 Chew Avenue in Germantown, Philadelphia. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

This important event is sponsored by the Haitian Clergy Association of Philadelphia, L’Informateur Haitian Newspaper, Mayor’s Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs, the Philadelphia Public Health Department, Eastern University Department of Nursing, 88.5 FM (sub-carrier) Heavenly Vision Haitian Radio, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia, National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer (NBLIC), Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, Nationalities Service Center and others.

Lack of access to adequate health services is a significant problem for the mostly uninsured 50,000+ Haitian immigrants who call Philadelphia home and an estimated 150,000 in the tri-state area. Building upon the success of its two previous Health Fairs, the Elise Joseph Foundation, along with sponsors of the event, hope to raise awareness about health care disparities while educating Haitian Americans about various health issues and available resources. Healthcare professionals will be on hand to provide blood pressure, cholesterol, dental, and diabetes screenings along with HIV/AIDS and blood sugar testing. The event will also highlight the role of fitness, nutrition, and exercise in maintaining good health and will address oral/dental care by Dr. Mary Tabrizi, sexual health, and alternative medicine. Haitian –American medical doctors: Dr. Julien Sanon and Dr. Patricia Dierisseau will be available to answer medical questions and consultation. Representatives from U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services will be on site to answer immigration and citizenship questions and provide confidential assistance.

Service providers from the Philadelphia Department of Ambulatory Health Services, AFAHO (African Family Health Organization), Einstein Hospital, Explorers Sans Frontieres, along with students from Eastern University’s Department of Nursing will play a key role in providing services, information, demonstrations and free materials for the community. Elise Joseph Foundation Co-Founder and Eastern University alumna, Gilda-Jean Louis, expects a large turnout. “This is a wonderful opportunity to educate the Haitian community about health care issues that are pertinent to them especially because so many of them are uninsured,” said Jean-Louis, a native of Haiti, and this year’s recipient of the Philadelphia Department of Health Service Award for her work with the foundation that she co-founded with her sister, Marie Rosemonde Joseph.

Haitian immigrants make up a significant part of Philadelphia’s neighborhood landscape and voting public. East Oak Lane, Feltonville, Germantown, Mount Airy, and the Logan sections of North Philadelphia boast the largest concentration of Haitian immigrants. The second largest group can be found in West Philadelphia, with the remaining groups residing in Northeast Philadelphia and the immediate suburbs of North and West Philadelphia. The average Haitian American family of four has no form of health insurance and survives on less than \$35,000 a year.